



Stay on **TRRAC**  . . .

With Multi-Family Recycling

Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums in Montgomery County, Maryland

Issue No. 8, March 2004

TRRAC 

Calendar

- **APRIL 3, 2004**
DSWS Earth Day Celebration
850 Hungerford Drive
This is a fun and educational event for the whole family.
- **MAY 17-21, 2004**
Montgomery County Recycling Awareness Week
(events TBA)
- **JUNE 16, 2004**
TRRAC Seminar
Four Points Sheraton
Bethesda



ARE YOU PLANNING TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY IN APRIL?

If so, please call us
at **240-777-6400**
to have a staff member
attend and set up a
recycling education booth
at your event.

A Letter from the Manager of Montgomery County's Multi-Family Recycling Program



Ronald Clarkson

Hello! I'm **Ronald Clarkson**, Manager of Montgomery County's Multi-Family Recycling Program and the TRRAC initiative. I've been with the program for ten months now and have enjoyed every moment of it.

This is a year of change for the Multi-Family Recycling Program. Beginning in 2004, all legally required annual reports were due by **February 1st**. Many thanks to all of you who submitted your reports on time this year. Also, our seminars are starting again, the TRRAC newsletter has a new look, and we have a full program support team in place. For some time, Program Specialist

Cecelia Hatton attempted to monitor recycling at all multi-family dwellings in the County single handedly. This was definitely a busy time! I joined the team as Program Manager in June 2003 and **Jonice Adams** joined the team in July. You'll learn more about Ceceila and Jonice later in this newsletter.

This year our team is busy visiting as many properties as possible throughout the County. Our goal is to visit every multi-family property in the County three or four times per year, as well as follow up on any complaints received. You will also see us at many community events, spreading the good news about how easy it is to recycle.

I'd like to encourage property managers who want a successful program to **keep it simple**. Make sure recycling is easy and convenient for your residents and employees, since in recycling, convenience equals success. For example, small reusable baby blue recycling bins fit well in apartments and under kitchen counters. With their convenient fold-a-way handle, they also make it easy for residents to carry recyclables to your collection point. This reduces the need for plastic bags, which are not acceptable mixed in with any of your recyclable material. If your residents want to recycle plastic bags from the grocery store, we recommend they return them to the grocery stores since many local grocers have established programs of their own for recycling plastic bags. Encourage your residents to look for collection bins wherever they shop. If you would like baby blue recycling bins delivered to your property at no cost to you, please give us a call at **240-777-6400**.

My second message to everyone is **RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE! It's the law**. In fiscal year 2002 the recycling rate for the multi-family sector was 9.7 percent. The overall goal for the County is 50 percent, and we need everyone's help to achieve this level. The reason for setting our recycling goal at 50 percent is to reduce the amount of waste that the County would need to dispose of by burning or burying it. Locating new sites in the County to do either of these would be very difficult.

And lastly, thanks for your continued help as recyclers; we look forward to visiting your property soon. And remember; it pays to make it easy and convenient to help your residents.
Stay on TRRAC with Multi-Family Recycling.






The TRRAC Team: Cecelia Hatton, Ronald Clarkson, and Jonice Adams.

Smiles All Around

Now it's time to introduce the other members of the TRRAC Program who are helping property managers and owners in Montgomery County to recycle as much as possible. **Cecelia Hatton**, (above left), has been part of the Division of Solid Waste Services for about three and a half years and is responsible for the North and West Sections (Chevy Chase to Damascus) of the County. Cecelia says that her favorite part of her current position is getting to meet lots of people in the process. **Jonice Adams**, (above right), joined the County team around eight months ago and considers herself a problem solver. Her areas of focus include the South and East portions of the County ranging from Kensington to Olney. Both staff members agree it feels really good to do something that we all know is good for the community, the environment, the local economy, and saves resources for future generations. They really enjoy working with community members and helping them to unite and achieve the common goal of recycling 50 percent of their waste. Most of all, each of us look forward to meeting you in person to discuss your individual recycling programs and needs. If you would like to schedule an on-site visit or presentation at your facility, contact us at **240-777-6446**. Don't delay, join the team . . . and get on TRRAC.

RECYCLING CHECKLIST

- ☒ **Multi-Family properties **MUST** recycle the following materials:**
 -  Newspapers (including inserts)
 -  Aluminum cans and aluminum foil products
 -  Bi-metal food and beverage cans
 -  Glass bottles and jars
 -  Plastic bottles with necks
 -  Yard trim (grass, leaves, brush and Christmas trees)
- ☒ **Many Multi-Family complexes have expanded their recycling collection programs to allow you to recycle additional items such as:**
 -  **Mixed paper:** At this time, Multi-Family properties are not required to recycle mixed paper. However, this is expected to change in the near future, and property managers can contract with their current recycling collection company to include a mixed paper-recycling program. Call or e-mail us for more information.
 -  Corrugated cardboard boxes
 -  Telephone Books
 -  Scrap metal
- To learn how to include even more materials into your property's recycling program, see your Property Manager's Guide to Recycling. If you do not have a copy of this important reference book, please call **240-777-6400** to request a copy.

Join TRAAC staff at the next Recycling Seminar on June 16, 2004!

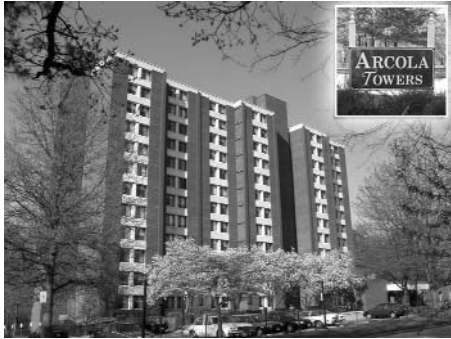
It's a great way to get current information on setting up or improving your recycling program and get reference materials and handouts for your residents. There is no cost to attend, and lunch is provided.

Register online at www.tech-res-intl/trrac or call 301-897-7481.



TRRAC Stars

Have you, or someone you know, done something outstanding to support recycling at your property? Let us know and your property might be featured in our next newsletter.



Arcola Towers in Silver Spring, Maryland.

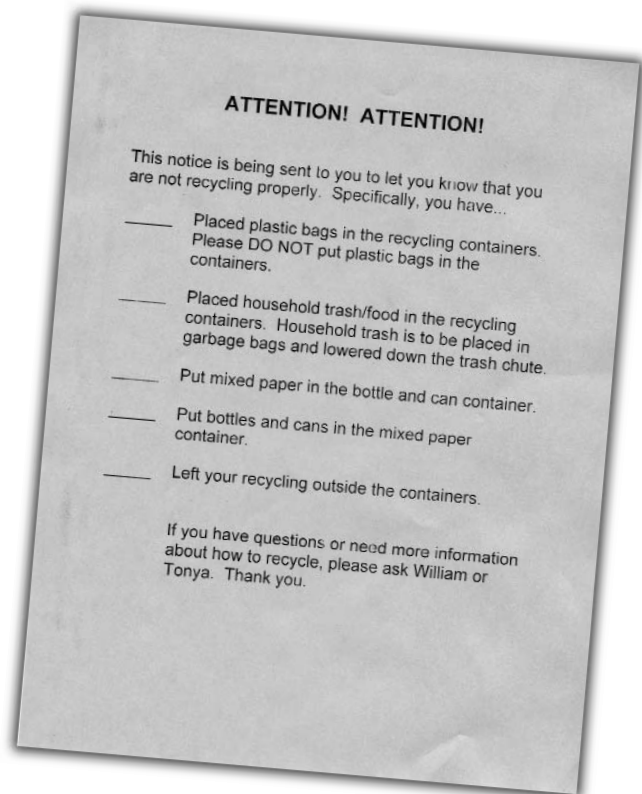
New Approaches to Encourage Recycling

Manager **Tonya Clark** and custodian **William Thomas** oversee the recycling program at **Arcola Towers**, a 141-unit apartment complex located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Managed by the Housing Opportunities Commission, these units are home to people of many ethnic backgrounds including Korean, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish and who may not clearly understand English




or the recycling process in general. In addition, Tonya and William need to overcome age and health barriers since their residents include senior citizens who are limited physically. As with any residential complex they both agree that the biggest challenge is simply getting people to comply with recycling regulations. Common problems are residents dumping trash, especially raw food and fish, in the recycling bins. Tonya affirms, "The way to have them help us, is to educate them. We need to show them the importance of recycling and relate it to both the operating budget and the preservation of the environment." As part of this education, the team has developed a progressive program that includes placing labels and pictures of materials that can be recycled directly on the bins; making presentations at resident meetings that provide recycling guidelines; and producing a monthly newsletter with recycling hints. They also have developed a notice, (shown on the right), to distribute to residents who have been identified as recycling contaminators, and this has proven to be highly effective in improving site compliance. During her presentation at a recent seminar conducted by the TRRAC staff, Tonya distributed copies and encouraged the other property managers in attendance to give it a try.

Congratulations to the Arcola Towers team for finding innovative methods to communicate with their residents!



It's as Easy as 1 2 3!

Here are a few examples of how easy it can be to conserve and recycle.

-  Reduce your consumption by using both sides of paper for notes and lists, and cloth towels instead of paper ones for routine cleaning.
-  Recycle paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, cans, and narrow neck plastic bottles routinely to reduce the number of weekly trash pickups.
-  Reuse cardboard boxes and other packing materials to help cut costs for shipping and disposal.

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Multi-Family Recycling Program
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(240) 777-6400
(240) 777-6442 (tty)
(240) 777-6465 (fax)
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
e-mail: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov
Recycling for Multi-Family Properties
(240) 777-6400
County Transfer Station
(301) 840-2370
County Recycling Center
(301) 417-1433
This information is available in an alternate format by calling
Ronald Clarkson at (240) 777-6400.

TRAC
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MARCH 2004



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